

FEBRUARY 25, 1976

THE SUPERBOWL OF BIRDWATCHING (NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE)
NEW SATELLITES MAKE HAM LISTENING MORE FUN (POPULAR
MECHANICS)
WHERE THE MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS GO (ART NEWS)

ANNCR: HERE IS _____, WITH FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK --
SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM AMERICAN
MAGAZINES. TODAY, FROM POPULAR MECHANICS, A REPORT
ON A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE JUST FOR SHORTWAVE RADIO
HOBBYISTS; FROM ART NEWS, A LOOK AT A MAN WHO BUILDS
SCULPTURES FOR ARTISTS; AND IN OUR FIRST SUMMARY, FROM
THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, A FEW WORDS ABOUT BIRDS,
AND THE PEOPLE WHO WATCH THEM.

REPORTER: BIRDWATCHING -- OR BIRDING, AS IT IS CALLED BY THOSE
WHO ARE SERIOUS ABOUT IT -- WAS ONCE REGARDED AS A
SUITABLE HOBBY ONLY FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT MUCH ELSE TO
OCCUPY THEIR TIME. TO MANY AMERICANS, BIRDWATCHERS
WERE FIGURES OF FUN. AS PETER WOOD PUTS IT IN THE
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, "AFTER ALL, IT IS THE DOERS
OF THIS WORLD, NOT THE WATCHERS, WHO COMMAND OUR
RESPECT." YET, HE CONTINUES:

VOICE: "THERE IS NOTHING PASSIVE, NOTHING 'WATCHY' ABOUT
SERIOUS BIRDERS, AS THEY PREFER TO BE CALLED. ONE
NEED ONLY FOLLOW THEM ABOUT FOR A FEW DAYS -- AS I
HAVE THIS WINTER -- TO DISCOVER THAT THEY ARE A
DOUGHTY (BRAVE) AND TIRELESS BREED. QUESTING AFTER
BIRDS, PARTICULARLY RARE BIRDS, SUCH AS THE SMEW THAT
SHOWED UP FROM SIBERIA A FEW WEEKS PAST IN NEWPORT,

VOICE: RHODE ISLAND, THEY ARE IMMUNE TO THE DISCOMFORTS OF
(CONT) WEATHER, DISTANCE OR TIME. THEIR SKILL IN MAKING SURE
IDENTIFICATIONS FROM THE BRIEFEST GLIMPSE OR SNIPPET
OF SONG IS TRULY EXTRAORDINARY. AND MOST IMPORTANT,
THROUGH REGIONAL CLUBS, STATE FEDERATIONS, AND NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
AND THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION, THEY REPRESENT
THE LARGEST AND BEST-ORGANIZED FORCE FOR CONSERVATION
IN AMERICA."

REPORTER: MISTER WOOD POINTS OUT THAT THE BIRDERS REPRESENTED
BY THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE "ONLY THE TIP OF THE
ICEBERG." MANY MORE PEOPLE PUT OUT SEED FOR BIRDS
OR CARRY BINOCULARS WITH THEM WHEN OUT FOR A WALK.
AND THEY COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

VOICE: "NOT ALL OF THEM ARE LITTLE OLD LADIES IN SENSIBLE
SHOES. ONE ALSO FINDS TINKERS, TAILORS, FIREMEN,
CHIEFS, HOUSEWIVES, SCHOOL CHILDREN, PRESIDENTS OF
LARGE CORPORATIONS AND ELLIOT RICHARDSON (U-S SECRETARY
OF COMMERCE). IN FACT, ABOUT THE ONLY GENERALITY ONE
CAN MAKE ABOUT BIRDERS IS THAT THEY POSSESS AN ABIDING
INTEREST IN NATURE AND HAVE AN EVER-DECLINING AVERAGE
AGE."

REPORTER: ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE NEW YEAR, MISTER WOOD
REPORTS, AMERICAN BIRDERS WERE INVOLVED IN ONE OF
THE BIGGEST EVENTS OF THEIR YEAR -- THE ANNUAL AUDUBON
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. THE PURPOSE IS TO "PROVIDE

REPORTER: SPOT CHECKS OF BIRD POPULATIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT --
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INCLUDING CANADA, MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES." THE FIRST COUNT TOOK PLACE ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1900 -- THE IDEA OF FRANK CHAPMAN, AN EMINENT ORNITHOLOGIST AND EDITOR OF BIRD LORE MAGAZINE. HE SUGGESTED SPENDING A DAY WATCHING BIRDS AND THEN REPORTING THE RESULTS TO THE MAGAZINE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE THEN-POPULAR CUSTOM OF GOING HUNTING ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND SHOOTING ANY BIRD OR ANIMAL IN SIGHT. FROM THAT BEGINNING, MISTER WOOD TELLS HOW THE SPORT HAS GROWN:

VOICE: "THAT FIRST YEAR, CHAPMAN RECEIVED 25 REPORTS FROM 27 OBSERVERS. THE HIGH COUNT IN TERMS OF SPECIES IDENTIFIED CAME FROM PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA: 36. SINCE THAT DATE, RULES HAVE BEEN FORMALIZED. IN 1916, THE LIMITS OF EACH COUNT AREA WERE ESTABLISHED AS A CIRCLE NOT TO EXCEED 15 MILES (24 KILOMETERS) IN DIAMETER. LATER, THE COUNT PERIOD WAS DEFINED AS ONE CALENDAR DAY, AND WAS NO LONGER CONFINED TO CHRISTMAS. ONE RULE HAS NEVER CHANGED: ANY NUMBER OF OBSERVERS MAY PARTICIPATE. AS ABLE OBSERVERS MULTIPLIED AND COUNT AREAS WERE MORE SYSTEMATICALLY CANVASSED, THE TOTAL MOUNTED. LAST JANUARY 2ND, AT CATEMACO NEAR VERACRUZ ON THE GULF COAST OF MEXICO, A TEAM OF EXPERT BIRDERS TURNED IN A COUNT OF 293 -- NOT BAD WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT THIS REPRESENTS ROUGHLY ONE-SIXTH OF ALL THE SPECIES KNOWN TO BREED IN NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA."

REPORTER: MISTER HOOD TELLS WHAT IT WAS LIKE THE PARTICIPATE IN
A BIRD COUNT ON BLOCK ISLAND, TEN MILES (SIXTEEN
KILOMETERS) OFF THE COAST OF RHODE ISLAND.

VOICE: "JUST TWO DAYS SHORT OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE THERE IS A
CRUEL BITE TO THE WIND TEN MILES OUT IN THE ATLANTIC...
WE STARTED IN A MARSH ADJACENT TO GREAT SALT POND.
ARBIB (DOB ARBIB, EDITOR OF AMERICAN BIRDS MAGAZINE)
POINTED OUT A BIRD ON THE POND 150 YARDS FROM SHORE.
EVEN THROUGH MY EIGHT-POWER BINOCULARS, IT APPEARED
LITTLE MORE THAN A DARK SPOT. 'GREATER SCAUP,' ARBIB
ANNOUNCED MATTER-OF-FACTLY AS HE ADJUSTED THE SCOPE
FOR ME. AS I PREPARED THROUGH THE EYEPiece, I SAW A
BIRD WITH A GREEN HEAD AND WHITE MARGINS ON ITS WINGS.
IN A MOMENT IT FLEW OFF AND A CRY CAME TO US OVER
THE STILL WATER. 'SCAUP,' IT SAID. AN EASY BIRD TO
REMEMBER, I THOUGHT, UNTIL I LOOKED IN 'BIRDS OF NORTH
AMERICA' AND FOUND THAT THERE ARE TWO SCAUPS -- GREATER
AND LESSER -- AND THAT THEY LOOK DISTRESSINGLY ALIKE
AND HAVE THE SAME CRY. HOW, I ASKED ARBIB, COULD HE
TELL THE DIFFERENCE? 'WHEN YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF THEM,'
HE SAID, 'YOU KNOW.'

REPORTER: MISTER HOOD SAYS HE WAS IMPRESSED NOT ONLY WITH THE
HARDINESS OF BIRDERS AND THEIR ABILITY TO IDENTIFY
BIRDS AT A GREAT DISTANCE, BUT ALSO BY THEIR DEDICATION
TO THEIR SPORT. BIRDERS OFTEN COMPILE A "LIFE LIST"
OF SPECIES THEY HAVE SEEN WHICH CAN NUMBER MORE THAN 600.

REPORTER: HE CITES THE CASE OF NOBEL PROCTOR, A NEW ENGLAND
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ORNITHOLOGIST WHOSE LIFE LIST NOW STANDS AT 694.

VOICE: "ONCE DURING HIS STUDENT DAYS, PROCTOR RECEIVED A
CALL FROM A FRIEND ON THE WEST COAST, REPORTING A RED-
THROATED PIPIT, AN ARCTIC RESIDENT, IN A SAN DIEGO
FIELD. UNABLE TO AFFORD THE PLANE FARE, HE TOOK A BUS
(ACROSS THE COUNTRY) AND THREE DAYS LATER ADDED ONE MORE
BIRD TO HIS LIST."

REPORTER: NOT ONLY DO BIRDERS ENJOY THEMSELVES, PETER WOOD CONCLUDES:
THEY ALSO PROVIDE SCIENTISTS WITH A PICTURE OF CHANGING
BIRD POPULATIONS THAT PROBABLY COULD NOT BE OBTAINED IN
ANY OTHER WAY. AS LIFE BECOMES MORE COMPLICATED, IT'S NOT
SURPRISING THAT MORE AND MORE AMERICANS ARE DISCOVERING
THE SIMPLE JOYS OF BIRDING.

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REPORTER: COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES ARE NOTHING NEW THESE DAYS --
GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES USE THEM FOR HUNDREDS
OF PURPOSES, RANGING FROM TELEVISION BROADCASTING TO DEFENSE
COMMUNICATIONS. BUT WHAT FEW PEOPLE REALIZE IS THAT TWO
ORBITING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES ARE RESERVED SOLELY
FOR PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO WANT TO TALK TO EACH OTHER AROUND
THE GLOBE.

THE TWO SATELLITES ARE NAMED OSCAR -- THE ENGLISH INITIALS
FOR ORBITAL SATELLITE CARRYING AMATEUR RADIO. AND
POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE REPORTS THAT OSCAR HAS
GENERATED NEW EXCITEMENT AMONG SHORTWAVE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS:

VOICE: "OSCAR SATELLITES ARE THE HOTTEST NEWS IN HAM (AMATEUR) RADIO. THE HOBBY, WHICH STARTED RADIO BROADCASTING AND POINT-TO-POINT COMMUNICATIONS AT THE TURN OF THIS CENTURY, IS IN THE GRIP OF OSCAR FEVER. THOUSANDS OF HAMS (RADIO AMATEURS) IN NEARLY EVERY NATION OF THE WORLD ARE GEARED UP AND RIDING ALONG ELECTRONICALLY EVERY DAY ON TWO SATELLITES THEY DESIGNED, BUILT AND FINANCED. MANY MORE ARE PREPARING FOR THE RIDE."

REPORTER: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES IN ORBIT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. ALL HAVE BEEN SENT ALOFT IN PLACE OF DEAD WEIGHT BALLAST, ON ROCKETS CARRYING U.S. GOVERNMENT SATELLITES. OSCAR SIX HITCHED A RIDE WITH A WEATHER SATELLITE IN 1972, WHILE OSCAR SEVEN RODE INTO ORBIT WITH BOTH A WEATHER STATION AND A SPANISH COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE.

BUT THOUGH THEY RIDE AMERICAN VEHICLES INTO SPACE, ALL THE OSCARS, AS POPULAR MECHANICS EXPLAINS, HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR:

VOICE: "OSCAR SATELLITES HAVE BEEN BUILT BY HAMS FROM MANY COUNTRIES. FOR INSTANCE, THE TWENTY-NINE-AND-A-HALF KILOGRAM OSCAR SEVEN INCLUDES A TELEMETRY SYSTEM BUILT BY AUSTRALIAN HAMS, ONE RETRANSMITTING SYSTEM BUILT BY GERMAN HAMS, ANOTHER REBROADCASTER BUILT BY AMERICANS AND A DEACON BUILT BY CANADIAN HAMS. NEW AND EVEN MORE SOPHISTICATED AMATEUR SATELLITES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

REPORTER: ANYONE WHO HAS A SHORTWAVE RADIO CAPABLE OF TUNING INTO THE TEN METER BAND CAN LISTEN TO OSCAR COMMUNICATIONS. AMATEUR RADIO-OPERATORS TRANSMIT UP TO OSCAR IN THE TWO METER BAND AND THE SATELLITE RETRANSMITS WHAT IT HEARS ON TEN METERS. BUT THE REAL VALUE OF THE AMATEUR SATELLITE IS THAT IT GREATLY EXTENDS THE RANGE OF SHORTWAVE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS. WRITES POPULAR MECHANICS:

VOICE: "SINCE THE SATELLITES ARE AT ALTITUDES OF OVER FOURTEEN HUNDRED KILOMETERS, AN EARTH STATION CAN BE UP TO THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED KILOMETERS AWAY FROM AN OSCAR AND RECEIVE SIGNALS FROM IT WHEN IT COMES OVER THE HORIZON. COMMUNICATION IS POSSIBLE WITH ANOTHER HAM UP TO SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED KILOMETERS AWAY WHEN THE SATELLITE IS IN VIEW OF HIS STATION AT THE SAME TIME. THE SATELLITE IS CONSTANTLY MOVING ALONG ITS ORBITAL PATH SO STATIONS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD COME IN AND GO OUT OF VIEW OF THE SATELLITE."

REPORTER: THE AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITES HAVE ENABLED OPERATORS IN INDIA TO COMMUNICATE WITH AMATEURS IN FINLAND, HAMS IN KENYA TO TALK TO YEMEN AND AMERICAN SHORTWAVE ENTHUSIASTS TO TALK WITH ONE ANOTHER COAST-TO-COAST. WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THAT FANCY EQUIPMENT IS NOT NEEDED TO PICK UP THE SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS. AN ANTENNA CONSISTING OF A FEW METERS OF WIRE IS ALL THAT'S NECESSARY.

REPORTER: MOSTLY, THE TWO OSCAR SATELLITES ARE USED BY SHORTWAVE
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HOBBYISTS FOR PLEASURE -- THE THRILL OF TALKING TO
SOMEONE ELSE THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS AWAY. BUT THE OSCARS
COULD ALSO BE USED FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

POPULAR SCIENCE GIVES SOME EXAMPLES:

VOICE: "THE SATELLITES ARE BEING TESTED IN SEVERAL SERIOUS EXPERI-
MENTS. MEDICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS HAVE BEEN SENT VIA OSCAR
SEVEN FROM SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES
OF HEALTH IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MIAMI HAMS MAINTAIN A HURRICANE WATCH AND WEATHER
BULLETINS ARE TRANSMITTED VIA SATELLITES. TECHNIQUES ARE
BEING WORKED OUT TO USE THE SATELLITES TO FIND DOWNED
AIRCRAFT. PORTABLE EARTH STATIONS IN SUITCASES ARE
BEING BUILT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AT
EARTHQUAKE SITES ON SHORT NOTICE ANYWHERE ON THE GLOBE."

REPORTER: NEW OSCAR SATELLITES ARE NOW ON THE DRAWING BOARDS WHICH
WILL INCREASE AMATEUR RADIO'S USEFULNESS IN EMERGENCY
SITUATIONS. BUT MORE IMPORTANT TO MOST HAM OPERATORS
WILL BE THE EXPANDED ABILITY, THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITES, TO TALK TO OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD.

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REPORTER: WHERE DOES A SCULPTOR GO IF HE HAS AN IDEA FOR A
MONUMENTAL WORK THAT'S MADE OF STEEL AND IS TEN METERS
TALL? MOST ARTISTS' STUDIOS WON'T ACCOMMODATE SUCH
A SCULPTURE, BUT ART NEWS MAGAZINE DESCRIBES ONE THAT DOES:

VOICE: "SOUNDS OF HAMMERING, DRILLING AND WELDING -- BANGS, BUZZES AND HISSES -- FILL THE GREAT WORKSHOP, WITH ITS TWO-STORY CEILING AND MASSIVE SLIDING DOORS, WHERE DON LIPPINCOTT AND HIS STAFF OF A DOZEN SKILLED METAL WORKERS ARE BUILDING MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE TO ORDER FOR ARTISTS. HALF-A-DOZEN PROJECTS ARE GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME--- THE SPRAY PAINTING OF THE CURVED, SQUARED AND ELONGATED PARTS OF ONE WORK; THE SMASHING-IN OF A LEADEN TWO METER CIGARETTE BUTT OF ANOTHER; THE BENDING OF AN ALUMINUM LEAF OF A PIECE OF SCULPTURE THAT WILL BECOME PART OF A STYLIZED RAGPICKER'S FINGER -- AMONG OTHER JOBS."

REPORTER: FOR TEN YEAR'S DON LIPPINCOTT HAS BEEN THE UNITED STATES ONLY EXCLUSIVE FABRICATOR OF SCULPTURE. HE GOT HIS START IN THE FIELD BY BUILDING A FIVE-METER-HIGH STEEL SCULPTURE FOR HIS BROTHER STEVE, BUT HIS MAIN TRADE PRIOR TO THAT WAS CONSTRUCTING HOUSES.

HOWEVER, AFTER THE WORK-FOR HIS BROTHER, OTHER ARTISTS AND SCULPTORS BEGAN COMING TO HIM WITH THE PLANS FOR THEIR OWN MONUMENTAL PIECES. AND NOW HIS WORKSHOP CAN HANDLE ABOUT ANYTHING.

ACCORDING TO ART NEWS:

VOICE: BY AND LARGE, LIPPINCOTT USES STANDARD METALS AND METALWORKING TOOLS, ALTHOUGH HE DID GET INTO SOME EXPERIMENTATION IN JOINING STEEL AND LEAD IN A RECENT PIECE ... ALONG WITH A VARIETY OF MACHINES THAT CAN TWIST AND BEND STEEL OR ALUMINUM INTO ALMOST EVERY

VOICE:
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IMAGINABLE SHAPE BY PRESSURE OR HEAT OR BOTH,
LIPPINCOTT ALSO USES SAND CASTING PROCESSES FOR IRON,
ALUMINUM, BRASS AND BRONZE. IF A PIECE SHOULD BE
PLANNED IN SOME MATERIAL HE DOESN'T SPECIALIZE IN,
LIPPINCOTT WILL FIND ANOTHER SHOP THAT CAN DO THE
WORK. IF THE PIECE IS MAINLY OF METAL, THOUGH, THE
LIPPINCOTT SHOP WILL DO THE WHOLE THING."

REPORTER: BECAUSE DON LIPPINCOTT DOES THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION
FOR ARTISTS, SOME CRITICS QUESTION WHETHER THE SCULPTOR IS
NOT ADDICATING HIS OWN JOB IN FAVOR OF THE LIPINCOTT
ASSEMBLY SHOP. HOWEVER, DON LIPPINCOTT ANSWERS THOSE
CRITICS THIS WAY:

VOICE: "PEOPLE HAVE THE WRONG IDEA. SOMETIMES THEY THINK AN
ARTIST JUST SENDS A BLUEPRINT AND THEN WE DO ALL THE
REST. IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. WE WORK VERY
CLOSELY WITH THE ARTIST THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS."

REPORTER: OFTEN AN ARTIST WILL COME TO THE LIPPINCOTT SHOP WITH A
SKETCH, THEN MAKE A PLASTIC MODEL AND THEN SUPERVISE
CLOSELY WHILE THE WORKMEN TRANSLATE IT INTO METAL. MISTER
LIPPINCOTT BELIEVES THAT THE WORKMEN BECOME EXTENSIONS
OF THE ARTIST. AND ART NEWS AGREES:

VOICE: "WHAT IS REMARKABLE ABOUT THIS OPERATION IS THAT NOBODY
WANTS TO TAKE ANY OF THE ART PREROGATIVES FROM THE
ARTIST, NOBODY WANTS TO BECOME AN ARTIST HIMSELF. THERE
IS ADMIRATION AND RESPECT FOR THE ARTIST AND AN OBVIOUS
PRIDE IN HAVING A PART IN THE MIRACLE THAT CHANGES

VOICE: SHEETS OF STEEL OR BLOBS OF LEAD INTO DELIGHTS FOR THE
(CONT) EYE AND THE MIND."

REPORTER: SCULPTORS ALSO SING THE PRAISES OF DON LIPPINCOTT.

ART NEWS LISTS ALMOST FORTY WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS WHO HAVE
HAD WORKS FABRICATED IN THE LIPPINCOTT SHOP. ONE OF
THEM, GEORGE SUGARMAN, SUMS UP THE FEELINGS OF MANY:

VOICE: "I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH LIPPINCOTT FOR MANY YEARS NOW
AND HAVE FELT FOR A LONG TIME AS IF ITS REALLY AN
EXTENSION OF MY STUDIO, AS IF HERE IS A GROUP OF WORKERS
WHO ARE REALLY MY ASSISTANTS. DON LIPPINCOTT AND HIS
FOREMAN, EDDIE GIZA, UNDERSTAND MY WORK AND MY AIMS,
AND WITH THE CLOSE PERSONAL ATTENTION THEY GIVE TO EACH
SCULPTURE I CAN BE SURE THAT MY ESTHETIC GOALS WILL BE
REALIZED. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP THAT IS
BOTH PRACTICAL AND PERSONAL, AND IS UNIQUE IN MY ART
WORLD EXPERIENCES."

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ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK, SUMMARIES
OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM MAGAZINES PUBLISHED
IN THE UNITED STATES. YOU HEARD TODAY A REPORT ON
BIRDMATCHING, FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE;
A LOOK AT HOW COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES ARE
BEING USED BY AMATEUR SHORTWAVE RADIO OPERATORS, FROM THE
PAGES OF POPULAR MECHANICS; AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE
WORK OF A MAN WHO BUILDS SCULPTURE FOR ARTISTS, FROM ART

ANNCR:
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NEWS. NEXT WEEK AT THIS TIME, MORE SELECTIONS FROM THE
MAGAZINE RACK.

YOUR REPORTER WAS -----.

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